

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 SIL-01 LAB-06 EB-11 SR-02

ORM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 COME-00

DRC-01 IO-14 /158 W

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R 191719Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8454

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

UNCLAS PARIS 09566

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLAB, FR

SUBJECT: VISA REQUIREMENT FOR PAKISTANIS TRAVELING

TO FRANCE

1. THIRTY-SEVEN MAURITIAN AND PAKISTANI WORKERS, FACED WITH EXPULSION FOR ILLEGAL ENTRY, BEGAN A HUNGER STRIKE IN A PARIS CHURCH IN LATE MARCH. IN A CALL ON THE DIRECTOR OF POPULATION AND IMMIGRATION EARLY IN APRIL, A DELEGATION FROM THE STRIKERS EXPLAINED THAT THE GROUP HAD IN FACT BEEN VICTIMIZED BY IMMIGRANT LABOR "BROKERS" WHO HAD MISREPRESENTED THE LEGAL AS WELL AS THE EMPLOYMENT PICTURE IN FRANCE. THE DIRECTOR OF CABINET IN LABOR MINISTRY TOLD LABATT THAT HE HAD INFORMATION TO THE EFFECT THAT PAKISTANI NEWSPAPERS HAVE CARRIED ARTICLES ALLEGING THAT FAVORABLE CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT EXISTED IN FRANCE AND PAKISTANI WORKERS WOULD BE WEL-

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COME THERE.

2. ALTHOUGH DISINCLINED TO MAKE AN EXCEPTION FROM EXISTING REGULATIONS FORBIDDING EMPLOYMENT OF FOREIGNERS WITHOUT WORK PERMITS, LABOR MINISTER GEORGES GORSE AGREED TO RECONSIDER THE STATUS OF THOSE FOREIGNERS ABLE TO PRODUCE BEFORE 1 JUNE 1974 WORK CONTRACTS IN INDUSTRIES SHORT OF LABOR. ALTERNATIVELY, THOSE WHO ARE UNABLE TO PRODUCE SUCH CONTRACTS AND ARE WITHOUT RESOURCES COULD APPLY TO THE MINISTRY FOR REPATRIATION AT NO EXPENSE TO THEMSELVES. IT WAS MADE CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT THOSE ALTERNATIVES WERE AVAILABLE ONLY TO MAURITIAN AND PAKISTANI WORKERS WHO WERE PHYSICALLY PRESENT IN FRANCE BEFORE 1 APRIL.

3. IN PARALLEL ACTION GORSE CONVINCED FOREIGN MINISTRY OF NECESSITY TO IMPOSE A VISA REQUIREMENT FOR PAKISTANIS TRAVELING TO FRANCE. FOREIGN MINISTRY RESISTED AT FIRST THIS PROPOSAL ON GROUNDS THAT IT WOULD BE DISCRIMINATORY AGAINST PAKISTAN WHICH COULD RETALIATE BY IMPOSING SIMILAR REQUIREMENT ON FRENCH BUSINESSMEN SEEKING MARKET OPPORTUNITIES IN PAKISTAN. LABOR MINISTRY'S POINT OF VIEW PREVAILED, HOWEVER, AND AS OF 15 APRIL PAKISTANIS (BUT NOT MAURITIANS) CANNOT TRAVEL TO FRANCE WITHOUT VISA. LABOR MINISTRY ADVISES THAT PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT READILY CONSENTED TO THIS REQUIREMENT.

IRWIN

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